# Moral Responsibility.

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# MORAL RESPONSIBILITY

INTRO. As followers of Jesus Christ what responsibilities, if any, do we assume? Are we responsibly for our disposition, temperament, our weakness or strength of will? Are we responsible for our moral character and conduct?

We are not responsible for our birth, our race, color or stature. Nor for inherited tendencies.

Some psychologists tell us that we are not responsible for anything, not even for a single thot, that all we think, feel and do, is but the consequence of natural forces over which we have no control.

Then the chemist steps in and tells us that our disposition and character are largely determined by chemical reactions.

As seekers of truth we should welcomeevery discovery regarding the natural forces that contribute to the making of man. In the light of modern science we know better than the psalmist did who said that man is fearfully and wonderfully made.

But we would be disloyal to truth if we omitted the contribution which the spiritual forces make in the determination of character. That would be like leaving out the contribution of the rays of of the sun to plant life. The spiritual forces of life have given to man a creative will. He may say,"I will" or "I wont". Upon this power of choice rests our sense of responsibility.

I. We are responsible in religion as in every-day life. The man out of a job goes after one. In practical life we hold to the theory that it is "up to us", regardless of what depends upon heredity, environment, intelligence, health, opportunities, associations, and the accidents of life. The final responsibility is ours.

Now we need a religion to live by like that. The Xn says,"I will learn all I can about myself and my world, but my moral character depends in the last analysis upon my own will power. It is up to me.

II. The necessity of effort is one of the natural laws in the spiritual world.

James:"If a brief definition of ideal or moral action were required, none could be given which would better fit the appearances than this:'It is action in the line greatest resistance.'"

How are fine characters developed? no man can attain the heights without climbing. Jesus himself could not have sat down at the right hand of God except by climbing the way of Gethsemene and Calvary.

Our lives get their strength as well as their beauty, dignity and glory thru moral effort.

The gate is not narrow just to keep people out of heaven. The only way to make a soul worth living is by the process of personal effort. Ease and comfort and inactivity are fatal to the development of character. To attain we must pass thru the rigors of experience with the vigor of effott.

III. Jesus taught responsibility.

"Repent" No repentance without a sense of responsibili
"If thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out"
"If any man willeth" is the platform of Jesus.

The spiritual realities of life make it possible for everyone to be the master of his own destiny.
"Ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you." "For God so loved the world-"

But it is not easy to be Xn. It was'nt easy for Peter& It was hard for John. It was too hard for Judas.

"Strive to enter in by the narrow door; for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in and shall not be able."

What does it mean to strive to enter in?
Strive in Greek-agonizomai- to agonize. Literally , to contend in the races.

On whattheoy does an athlete enter a race? On his bundle of instincts? On the amount of sugar in his blood? On his physical equipment? Whatever he has of these, well and good, but he depends upon his own exertion, his own determination. His agonizing is going to be the determining favtor as to whether he wins or loses.

IV

St. Jesus has set the standard of Xn attainment-Perfection! "Ye, therefore, shall be perfect, as your Heavenly Father is perfect," From sermon on mount and referring to non-resistance of evil, love of enemies, forgiveness of enemies and the otherhigh standards mentioned.

It also applies to social standards.
The Golden Rule
Love your neighbor as yourself.
Justice, truth & love

It also applies to making ourselves useful we are to serve and not merely to be served.
Human life like a great Jericho road where the wounded call for the personal attention of good Samaritans

Many moralists are a nuisance to others and unhappy in themselves! Why do we live in a world where we lose all soundness if we do not obey the moral law, and when we do set about heeding the moral voice we become hard and selfkconscious and confused and unhappy?

The father and his little girl- climb mountain. God hasgiven us an impossible task. We cannot climb the great mo untain of life alone. He has put into the very structure of moral life a demand we cannot meet. Only with his help can the demand be met. only with his help can we climb the mountain of moral perfection.

Morality tells the tale of a man depending upon his own achievement. Religion tells the tale of a man who has learned to put his trust in God.
Scripture for it-"By grace are you saved thru faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God"

The man who said it himself an example-Paul.

All true Xns have had the same experience, as well as many of us who are not so true. Myself, i.e.

Green apples-ripe apples

The games at Winters

This trust in God throws us into action with a burning energy, a glad assurance, a dynamic enthusiasm which moves men to irresistable compulsion. It is the freedom and power of a living trust in a living God as we contact him by following Jesus.

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See